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Equal Responsibilities

Stokely Carmichael's cry that vengeance must be taken against President Johnson, Secretary of State Rusk and Secretary of Defense McNamara is another ugly chapter in an ugly story.

Carmichael has turned over his civil rights portfolio to his aide, H. Rap Brown, to devote full time to inflaming international issues, using Communist Cuba as a base.

He is now after the scalps of American leaders for the success of the CIA in countering the efforts of Communist raiders and guerrillas in such places as Venezuela where their reigns of terror, murder and kidnap have been countered, he says, with CIA aid.

Carmichael is angry that some of these Cuban-sponsored terrorists have been killed, and that they have been obstructed by CIA teams from killing and efforts at creating chaos and take-over.

So he tosses a darkly veiled threat of assassination at the leaders of the United States if they do not neutralize and withdraw.

Carmichael's passport is under review; but unfortunately little else will be done to call him to account for his threats, if previous patterns are followed. Even though a heavy penalty is provided for the threat to the person of the President.

While Carmichael calls for assassinations and demands that the world submit to violence, terror, murder and usurpation by his friends in Communist raiding parties, his successor in the United States, Brown, makes similar noises.

Brown rants against the rights of society to resist the snipers and looters he has urged to rip it asunder. Defense against the pillaging, he declares, is criminal and must be "punished."

Brown is out on bail from a Cambridge, Md., charge of inciting to riot. But on past performance, the odds are that he will not be really called to account on the charge.

There is no right for anyone to threaten or incite murder, assassination, riot and pillaging. And anyone who does it should face the legal penalties provided.

It is as ridiculous and unjust to exempt such men from the consequences of their deeds and utterances because of their color as it is to deny equal freedoms and rights to citizens because of their color.

Rights must be equal; but so must responsibilities.